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E.O. 12356:N/A
TAGS: SHUM, TW
SUBJECT: **SENATOR KENNEDY'S STATEMENT ON RELEASE OF**
-- **PRISONERS**

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT RELEASE BY SENATOR KENNEDY ON AUGUST 15 CONCERNING RELEASE OF THE FOUR KAOHSIUNG PRISONERS:

"I WELCOME TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE TAIWANESE AUTHORITIES THAT REVEREND C.M. KAO, ASSEMBLYMAN LIN YI-HSIUNG, LIN WEN-CHEN AND HSU CHING-FU HAVE BEEN RELEASED ON PAROLE. AS ONE WHO HAS WORKED BOTH PRIVATELY AND PUBLICLY IN THEIR BEHALF, I WELCOME THIS ACTION AS AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD FOR FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS IN TAIWAN. BUT MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE. IT IS MY HOPE THAT THIS ACTION BY THE AUTHORITIES IS ONLY THE FIRST OF MANY SUCH RELEASES IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND THAT THE AUTHORITIES WILL RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF RELEASING FROM PRISON OTHER POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND ASSURING COMPLETE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION. TO DO SO WILL NOT ONLY BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE IN TAIWAN, BUT WILL HELP TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN.

SIGNED DEAN.
DAM
END OF MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED

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